

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT PFOR BB

SUBJ: UNFAVORABLE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON BARBADOS

REF: STATE 184809

1. DURING RECENT DEBATE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
OPPOSITION BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY LEADER, J.M.G. ("TOM") ADAMS
TOOK THE OCCASION TO QUOTE PARTS OF NYT AUGUST 21 ARTICLE TITLED
"BARBADOS NO BLASTED PARADISE NOW" BY RICHARD CUMMINGS, ONE-TIME
LAW LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES CAVE HILL CAMPUS.
ADAMS USED ARTICLE TO POINT OUT UNFAVORABLE IMAGE OF BARBADOS
BEING PAINTED ABROAD.

2. IN REBUTTAL, PM BARROW SAID THAT ARTICLE "WAS WRITTEN BY
SOMEONE WHO CARRIES NO WEIGHT WITH HIM." HE ALSO REVEALED
THAT GOB EFFORTS TO HAVE MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN REBUTTAL HAD
PROVEN FUTILE SINCE EDITOR RESPONSIBLE HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR
THAT SHE HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. BARROW IMPLIED IN
HIS REMARKS THAT BOTH AUTHOR AND EDITOR WERE DISGRUNTLED WITH
BARBADOS BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS PERSONAL INCIDENTS HERE. CUMMINGS
REPORTEDLY HAD TROUBLE WITH THE GOB GETTING A WORK PERMIT FOR A
FEMALE FRIEND AND EDITOR ALLEGEDLY HAS HOUSE HERE WHICH SHE WANTS
TO SELL THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO SEVERAL TIMES.

3. IN ADVOCATE NEWS OF 9/1/74, COLUMNIST ULRIC RICE CALLED
CUMMINGS' ARTICLE A "SICK JOKE OF VENTED SPLEEN." HE WROTE IN
HIS COLUMN VIEWPOINT THAT IF ARTICLE HAD NOT BEEN PUBLISHED IN
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TIMES, IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS "LOW COMEDY." ANOTHER COLUMNIST

E.L. ("JIMMY") COZIER WRITING IN SAME EDITION EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT NYT FAILED TO SEE "BITTERNESS AND HATE WHICH OOZE FROM EVERY LINE OF THE DIATRIBE." ARTICLE, HE SAID, DISGRACES COLUMNS OF NEWSPAPER "PRESUMABLY JEALOUS OF ITS REPUTATION FOR BALANCE." COZIER COMPLAINED THAT CUMMINGS MADE GENERAL CHARGES WITHOUT CITING SPECIFICS OR STATISTICS. HE SAID STATISTICS WOULD DIS-PROVE CUMMINGS' CONCLUSIONS ON BARBADOS. COZIER ALSO CLAIMED THAT CUMMINGS' STUDENTS AT CAVE HILL HAD COMPLAINED BITTERLY TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING TAUGHT ANY-THING BY CUMMINGS AND THAT LAW SCHOOL OFFICIALS LATER ASSIGNED HIS COURSE TO A TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR REMAINDER OF TERM.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CUMMINGS ARTICLE HAS PROVOKED SOME CRITICISM OF PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MOST BARBADIANS WERE TOO CAUGHT UP IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONTROVERSY TO PAY IT MUCH HEED. ARTICLE MAY ENJOY BRIEF NOTORIETY WITH PASSING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONTROVERSY; HOWEVER, MOST BARBADIANS ARE SUFFICIENTLY SOPHISTICATED TO RECOGNIZE IT AS UNINFORMED AND POSSIBLY EMBITTERED CRITICISM ON PART OF FOREIGNER. HARDER TO EXPLAIN IS NYT'S PROMINENT TREATMENT OF ARTICLE AND, IF TRUE, REFUSAL OF PAPER TO PRINT REBUTTAL.

SIMMS

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